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AUTHOR Kaplan, David Michael
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ABSTRACT

This book focuses on three types of revising: revising for style, revising for structure, and revising for meaning. The book's author shows, step by step, how three of his own short stories evolved from journal musings and early drafts to final, published versions. In addition, points are illustrated with examples from other contemporary writers. The book offers a personal look at how fine fiction emerges through revision. It teaches the writer how to rewrite for tighter plots, deeper characters, stronger dialogue, more evocative description, and ultimately, more fully realized fiction. The book takes the writer through every stage of the writing process, providing strategies and criteria to help pinpoint problems and fix them. It discusses the danger of the "sacred" first idea; common problems of first drafts; common stylistic glitches, such as imprecise language and weak sentence structure; and problems of "too little" (insufficient dialogue, action, description) or "too much (ruminations, repetition, tangents). (NKA)

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